MONTEREY NEWS

June 2013
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The Town Meeting

by Maggie Leonard

The Annual Town Meeting was held at the Monterey Firehouse on Saturday May 4, the first Saturday in May as is traditional in Monterey. At 9:30 am, Moderator Mark Makuc gaveled to order approximately 100 voters who turned out to review and discuss the budget and other town business.

Prior to the opening of the meeting there was a brief confusion when Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard requested that the Assistant Town Clerk, Linda Thorpe, be sworn-in as clerk of the meeting. Thorpe disagreed with Pollard, saying that as Assistant Town Clerk she had already been fulfilling the duties of Town Clerk since Deborah Mielke resigned on April 1, 2013; therefore, she declined the invitation to be sworn in. The moderator requested a

(*cont. on p. 2*)

The Town

by Susan Gallant

Questions about the Question

Those who voted in the May 7th town election received a separate slip of paper containing a question to be voted on along with their ballot. The question asked if the town should be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2½ the amount

(*cont. on p. 6*)

Will Marsh

Memorial Day 2013 parade through downtown Monterey

Maggie Leonard

Moderator Mark Makuc

(*Town Meeting, cont. from p. 1*)
volunteer from the audience and former Town Clerk Barbara Swann graciously offered to step in. She was unanimously voted the clerk of the meeting, followed by appreciative applause from voters.

Disaster averted, the moderator forged ahead with the warrant and read articles 1, to hear and act on the reports of all officers, agents and committees of the town, and 2, to vote to confirm the yearly salaries of elected officials. The annual Select Board salary of $4,300 per member, the Assessors salary of $4,000 per member, and the Board of Health positions of $400 per member were approved. These salaries have not changed in a few years and were not controversial.

Article 3, the longest article on the warrant, consists of over one hundred plus line items, including salaries for all town employees, health insurance expenses, budget requests from all of the town's departments and boards, plus big-ticket items like funding the transfer station, highway maintenance, salt and sand accounts, and the school budget. Prior to reading article 3, Makuc stated that he would read each line item so that anyone with a question on a particular item could call out a hold; after reading the entire article, the meeting would return to line items with holds for questions and discussion. Several holds were called out, mainly by former Select Board member Jon Sylbert, and right away it promised to be an interesting meeting.

When Makuc finished reading the article, he recognized Sylbert, who requested permission to skip to line item 914, Health Insurance, the crux of the matter he was about to discuss. Voters approved the request and Sylbert brought up the percentage of employee health insurance the town covers. This matter concerned Sylbert for the past few years, and he used the floor of the town meeting to do some consciousness raising. "Our town pays much more [of the employer/employee split] than anywhere else in the country," Sylbert stated. "Monterey does a 90/10 split. The state average for towns is a 75/25 split, and the national average is a 60/40 split. Also, how is it possible that the newly elected [2012] Town Clerk was approved for health insurance benefits when the Select Board actually voted a few years ago specifically **not** to fund health insurance benefits for that position? Compensations

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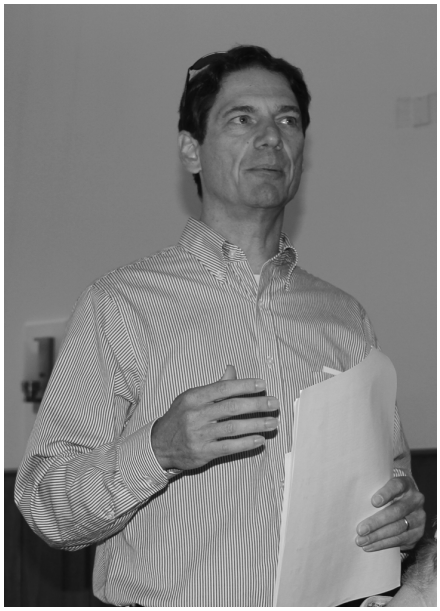

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Jon Sylbert

Thai Yoga Bodywork

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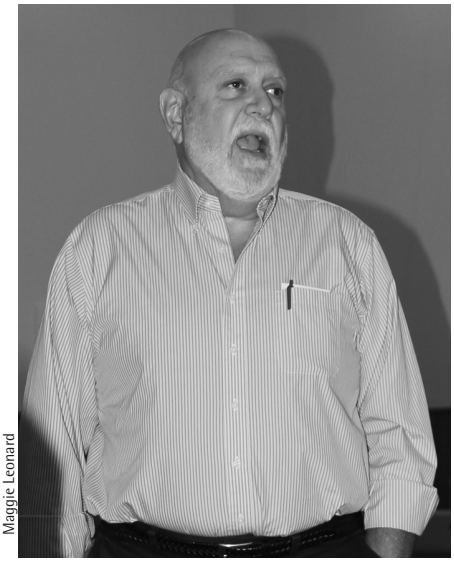
were agreed upon last year at town meeting. Where did that money come from? Isn't this the appropriating body?"

Responding specifically to Sylbert's question about the Town Clerk's benefits, local attorney and Monterey resident Charles Ferris replied, "It was found to be legally mandatory to provide health insurance because it was determined that the position requires twenty or more hours per week."

The moderator recognized Pat Salamon: "I just want to express my support for insuring the people in our town who work fulltime. However I would like to know if we have an unnecessarily Cadillac health program." Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini responded, "Current employees, and they have served the town for many years, get a 90/10 split on their health insurance. However our policy for new, incoming employees is an 80/20 split." The moderator recognized Director of Operations, Maynard Forbes: "You have to look at the whole package and then compare it with other towns. Other towns have benefits that we don't. This was studied by the Employee Compensation Committee, and we felt this was fair; you can't just pick out one little part of the package and claim it's extravagant. You have to look at the whole package."

Former Select Board member Michael Storch was recognized: "I served on the Employee Compensation Committee a few years ago and at that time we found that a decrease in health benefits would result in a fairly drastic decrease in take-home pay for our employees, so we didn't want to do it. However I like that the Select Board has decided to use the 80/20 split for new hires."



Maggie Leonard

Michael Storch

Sylbert said, "Health insurance costs are going up faster than any other sector of the economy, and I would like to make a motion to reduce the amount of line item 914 to reflect the amount that it would be if the town adopted a 75/25 split." It took a while to do the math but eventually Sylbert made a motion to remove $21,000, or 15%, from the line item and change $136,391 to $115,391. The motion was seconded, and Sylbert added, "You are not penalizing town employees by having competitive health insurance rates."

Susan Cooper was recognized: "Just to clarify, isn't this like reducing each employee's salary by about $5,000?" There was a general assent. Forbes was recognized: "I don't even know if that's legal. The Select Board sets these rates after consultation with the Employee Compensation Committee. I don't know if the town meeting can do that." In the end it didn't matter as the motion failed and the line item amount for health insurance remained unchanged at $136,391.

Moving on the to the hold on line item 222, Fire Department Compensation, Sylbert continued his quest for fiscal responsibility: "We have great town employees and we have a great Fire Department, and I have no objection to fair salaries. However, every year we get these budget overruns from the Fire Department. Every year this town votes for a budget, and it should be respected. At this point voters can say what they want at town meeting, but it doesn't make any difference. The portion of the budget that goes to the Fire Department is always increasing. I'm not objecting to the incremental increases that we agree on every year, but what seems like ignoring the budget." Fire Chief Shawn Tryon was recognized: "There is an hourly rate for going on calls that was set by the former chief and the Select Board. If guys show up on a call, then they get paid. We have discussed going to yearly stipend. That solves some problems and creates others. The reason the costs go up is because the number of calls has been going up." Longtime Fire Department member Bud Rogers took the floor," We are lucky in Monterey in that a lot of members of the Fire Department work locally. I'm >

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self-employed. If I go on a call, I leave a paying job and lose money; that doesn't work. The compensation is important." Finally, former Fire Chief Ray Tryon weighed in: "The money is spent on your telephone calls. If you don't want costs to go up then don't call!"

Select Board member Wayne Burkhart was recognized: "We have been involved in an active review of the Fire Fepartment. We all know that we have a superior Fire Department; especially for a town our size, and you can't always rely on comparing everything with other towns. All the people in the department are townspeople who care for us and who come to help when help is needed. It is important to maintain this money, and we can study it further with the Fire Department." Along these same lines Mary Makuc took the floor: "We have camps, a psychiatric facility, and lots of medical calls in this town. Are we going to not answer those calls?"

Joyce Scheffey noted that when the Fire Department responds to a call a lot of people show up, even if it's not a fire, and fewer personnel might be better. Police Officer Michael Johnson was recognized: "You call 911 at your worst moment, and the call is received in Pittsfield. The Fire Department is immediately notified, an ambulance may be called, and the police will be dispatched with a defibrillator. It's not a time when you know exactly how many people should be on the scene." Susan Cooper suggested, "Well you can't predict emergencies. We can either allocate enough funds for our best guess and suck it up if it falls short, or allocate more than we need and have excess go into the reserve fund." Stephen Enoch was recognized: "I think we have a great Fire Department and I don't think anyone disagrees with that. But I agree with Jon [Sylbert] about transparency and respecting a budget. Perhaps the Select Board could publicize the increases and then people can decide what they think." At the end of the discussion line 222, Fire Department compensation, passed.

Maggie Leonard

Select Board chair Scott Jenssen

Select Board chair Scott Jensen rose: "It would be nice to have people come to our meetings and work on these issues all year! As far as the past discussions go, I think Jon is right with his concerns, but I don't think the town meeting is a good place to work on these issues. The Select Board meets from 9–11 am on Mondays and if you can't make that time then let us know and we will post an extra meeting and meet with you." Sylbert responded, "This town is the only town in the state that meets during normal business hours! There is no excuse for not having nighttime meetings."

The meeting moved on to the hold Sylbert had called on line item 310, the school capital budget. Sylbert was recognized: "The district agreement reads, 'All towns must share costs.' This town gave up its rights last year in order to get the school budget passed. Monterey paid 25% of the bond with 10% of the students. Also, the school committee's task force on the outlying schools made recommendations that specifically ignore the wishes of our town. We are going to be singled out to pay for everyone's school including our own. I recommend that we don't pay this. We have already gone halfway; I recommend that we amend the school budget number to zero." Bruce Turner, the business manage for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) stated, "The repercussions are, that you are responsible for your share of the budget if the other towns vote to approve." Sylbert kept going: "There is no money in this budget for the Monterey School, and there was no money in last years' budget for the Monterey School. We need to be responsive to the school budget, but we are being asked to fund everything >

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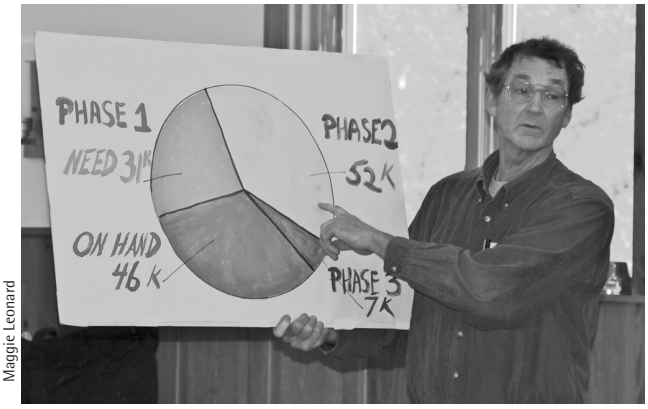
but our own school." Mr. Bracken was recognized: "We are going about this all wrong. We can't be holding up the whole school budget on the subject of the school here in Monterey."

Charles Flynn, the head of the SBRSD school committee, took the floor: "Jon I hear you. We have a recommendation from the task force and I understand that it's not what Monterey wants. However, we have great schools in our district—*U.S. News* recently voted Mount Everett one of the top schools in the country! The school committee is working hard to build community among the five towns [of the district]. Changes will be made in the future for the schools and campuses in all five towns." Monterey resident Christine Martin, who also teaches at Mount Everett High School, weighed in: "I'm not sure if voting down the whole school budget is a good idea, but I agree with Jon about the task force and recommendations. The problem is that voting down the budget goes back to the divisiveness of the past thirty years, which I don't want." Someone called the question and the motion to change the school budget to zero failed; both the school capital budget ($45,628) and the operating budget ($1,231,663) passed with no amendments.

Articles 4,5, and 6 passed without much discussion. Article 4 approved $275,000 to purchase a new grader for the Highway Department. Article 5 approved an appropriation of $49,205 for a new police cruiser, and article 6 raised money for replacement air packs for the Fire Department.

Article 7, a proposal for $31,000 to fund the ongoing renovations for the Wilson-McLaughlin House, was met with dismay from Sylbert: "I would like to review the history of the lease for the Wilson-McLaughlin House. The town did not want to support a community center; that's why it's a private nonprofit. This request is not in the spirit of the lease. The implication was to not use taxpayers' money. After seven years they are coming to the town for money." Joe Baker, chair of the Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House, was recognized: "Jon is right about the history. However, the situation changed dramatically when the state ruled that private nonprofits must act like municipalities and pay prevailing wages. That prevented us from using volunteer labor as we had planned." Baker then produced a pie chart illustrating the various phases of the renovations and the costs, and updated voters on the progress of the project: "Phase one, to make the house safe and tight from the weather will be complete if we get the $31,000 we've requested. So far we have removed the lead paint, exposed the post and beams, made repairs to the woodwork and basement, and installed new windows." Christine Martin was recognized, "I support the Community Center, and I think they should ask for $90,000 so they can get the work done and we can have the community center. I would like to make a motion to change the amount from $31,000 to $90,000." Moderator Mark Makuc asked Town Counsel Pollard, "Do we run into levy limit issues with that amount?" Select Board member Wayne Burkhart rose: "We appreciate the sentiment but that amount would probably be a problem." Martin said, "Well, we need to get behind this project and support it!" Michael Storch, realizing the problem was not the sentiment but the actual amount, made a motion "I would support an increase from $31,000 to $45,000." The motion was seconded.



Maggie Leonard

Joe Baker explains Community Center plans.

The discussion about the community center continued. Pam Johnson said, "People have worked hard on this. We need to bring both the yearly discussion and the project to an end. We also need to plan for continued maintenance." Sylbert demurred:

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"The town is putting taxpayers money into a project over which it has no control, and yet we are responsible for completing the project?" Steve Pullen, the former town accountant, apparently spoke for many voters: "The agreement does not preclude the town from contributing to the project. The best people in town on are on this committee [Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House] and all their work is volunteer. I think we should approve the $45,000." Article 7, an appropriation of funds for the Wilson-McLaughlin House, was amended from $31,000 to $45,000 and approved.

After that it was a race to the finish. The remaining articles were for the most part, not controversial: MontereyFest funding of $5,200 was approved; the town continues to pay down the loan for the new salt shed at $68,468; and ditto with the $44,704 toward the loan of the Kenworth truck and the pickup truck; $56,266 was approved for the loan for the Fire Department rescue vehicle and hydraulic tools.

There was discussion about Article 17, to authorize the Assessors to transfer $200,000 from Free Cash to reduce the tax levy for 2013. Again Sylbert took the floor: "I would like to make a motion to amend this number to zero. You can't reduce the budget by reducing the tax levy. If you don't do this every year then you will get slammed one year." Stan Ross, a member of the Finance Committee, said, "You are making the assumption that the budget will go up by $300,000 or $400,000 every year." Sylbert countered, "The budget has gone down once in the past ten years." Sylbert made his final pitch: "Do people realize that the poverty rate in Monterey is 12%? Out of that number, about 50% of those folks are considered very poor with incomes of less than $10,000 per year. We say we are a generous town but we need to think about this; we ignore the overall budget, we pass all the articles, we reduce the levy limit, and we are going to be in trouble! No one is thinking about the taxpayers." Select Board chair Scott Jensen was recognized: "Last year's budget was up $7,500 from the previous year. The $200,000 request does lower the tax rate. I would just like to reiterate that it would be more productive to have these discussions throughout the year and not at town meeting." Sylbert ended saying, "I'm just trying to get people to think about what they are spending money on and to do it responsibly." In the end article 17, to transfer $200,000 from Free Cash to reduce the tax levy, was approved.

Articles 18–22 were mostly housekeeping articles. Articles 18 and 19 were approved, to allow the Treasurer to use available funds from the treasury or to borrow money in anticipation of reimbursement from the Commonwealth, for Highway Capital funds. Articles 20 and 21 authorized town boards to make appointments and form committees, and, if necessary, to fix salaries and compensation for those appointments. Finally, Article 22 was to notify voters that elections for town boards would be on Tuesday May 7, 2013 from 12–7 pm. (In the only contested race in the election, Fred Chapman retained his seat on the Board of Appeals by defeating Rick Mielke 54–49.) ॐ

(*The Town, cont. from p. 1*)
approved by town meeting to pay for bond(s) for a new Highway Department grader (voters approved the exemption by a 60–24 margin). The question was omitted from the ballot reportedly because it was not on the town meeting warrant. While some understand the law to require that all ballot issues be on the warrant, others do not interpret the law in that way.

In an effort to get a definitive decision on this issue, the Select Board has asked Jeremiah Pollard, Monterey's town counsel, to get to the root of the matter. In the meantime, Barbara Swann, acting town clerk for this past election, has filed a report with the Elections Division, at the State House in Boston. The Select Board has not yet received a decisive response to this issue.

Doggie Playground

Julio Rodriguez, on behalf of Deuce and Max, and Howard Leavy, on behalf of Ziggy, joined the April 29th Select Board meeting to revisit the idea of creating a fenced-in area for the dogs of Monterey and their owners. The idea is that having a secure area for dogs to romp freely and socialize benefits both our four-legged friends and their two-legged counterparts, providing opportunities for socialization and allowing those of us who may have physical limitations to let their dogs run around without having to chase after them.

Julio and Howard have done some preliminary scouting of possible sites for

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this project and suggested that the town-owned property near the firehouse pavilion would be the best spot. They have already spoken with the abutters, who, according to Julio and Howard, have no issues with this location for such a project. The board agreed with the proposed location but did suggest that such details as cost of construction and maintenance, hours of operation, and rules and their enforcement need to be thoroughly researched. Julio and Howard will be looking into these issues with the goal of having the playground up and running by next year.

Finance Committee Changes

The Select Board received letters of interest from Don Clawson and Ian Jenkins about filling the vacancy on the Finance Committee left by Michael Storch, who was present at the April 29th Select Board meeting. Michael supported the appointment of Don Clawson, explaining that Don has a good understanding of town finances. Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini, in an effort to encourage the involvement of residents new to town government, supported Ian Jenkins. Nevertheless, a motion was made to appoint Don to fill Michael's seat on the Finance Committee until the next town election. The motion was seconded and approved by a two-to-one vote. The Select Board does sincerely thank Ian Jenkins for his interest.

Police Report

Gareth Backhaus, Monterey's police chief, joined Select Board meetings on April 29 and May 20 to report the following activity:

- False alarms at Town Hall, Brett Road, Stevens Lake Way, and Woodland Drive.
- A summons was served on Lake Avenue.
- Shots heard on Beartown Mtn. Road were by someone shooting within his or her legal rights.
- An investigation of a loud crash on Beartown Mtn. Road found nothing, and no other reports have come in.
- Abandoned 911 calls on River Road and Main Road involved an assault during which an arrest was made.
- Suspicious activity reported on Main Road was someone waiting for a ride.
- Tree on wires reported on Wellman and New Marlboro Roads.
- Nothing found in response to a report of suspicious activity near the church.
- Police put down an injured/rabid raccoon on Elephant Rock Road.
- Dispute between neighbors over trespassing on Mt. Hunger Road.
- Reported motor vehicle theft was an unauthorized use of the vehicle, and the person was picked up in Hamden County.
- Medical call at the town beach.
- Report of a brush fire on Hupi Road that might have been caused by a discarded lit cigarette.
- Call about someone on Main Road opening mailboxes. An investigation found an individual putting business cards in mailboxes. Opening mailboxes for any reason is a felony offense.
- Loose cows on Main Road.

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Glynis Marsh

Just hanging out at Roadside Store waiting for Gould Farm's 100th anniversary festivities to begin.

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- A complaint on Fairview Road of a shot fired that turned out to be a legal turkey hunter on state land.
- Criminal charges are being filed on a party stopped for driving without a license.
- False alarms at Mt. Hunger, Gould, and Hupi Roads.
- Abandoned 911 call on Mt Hunger Road by a housekeeper cleaning the phone.
- Hiker reported lost at Beartown State Forest was found at a home on Beartown Mtn. Road.
- Large bear reported on Mt. Hunger Road that was within his or her legal rights.
- Stray dog found on Main Road was returned to its owner.
- Assisted Great Barrington Police Dept. with a missing-person call.

A town resident spoke with the Police Department and a Select Board member about dimming the extra-bright light on the cruiser's light bar that can be blinding at night. Chief Backhaus said that this is a standard configuration and is a safety feature that, when lit during a routine traffic stop, should force oncoming drivers to slow down to a crawl until they pass the patrol vehicle. According to Backhaus, the new cruiser will have a new configuration, so this will no longer be a problem for nighttime drivers.

Grading the Graders

Bids were opened during the April 29th Select Board meeting for a 2013 all-wheel-drive grader. Bids were received from Schmidt Equipment, Milton Caterpillar, and Tyler Equipment. At the May 13th board meeting, Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported that he had made site visits to both John Deere and Caterpillar and recommended that the Caterpillar bid of $251,991 (including trade-in) be accepted. Although that bid was a bit higher than the one for the John Deere, the Caterpillar most closely met the required specs and would be more fuel efficient.

The Select Board supports Forbes's recommendation; however, the question of whether the vote for the debt exclusion for the grader was valid is still up in the air (see next section). Although the bid on the Caterpillar is valid only until May 20, Forbes will ask if it can be held until the matter is resolved.

The Beaver Problem

The Select Board, at its May 13th meeting, wanted to make sure that Maynard Forbes was aware of the Berkshire Beaver Funding Grant from the Nion Robert Thieriot Foundation, offered through the MSPCA. According to Forbes, Monterey doesn't qualify for this grant money because the town uses trapping to remove beavers, which isn't allowed under the grant parameters. Forbes reports that Monterey spends between $800 and $1,000 a year to trap and remove beavers.

Passing of the Torch

Now that the election is over, with current chair Scott Jenssen retaining his seat on the Select Board, it's time for the chairpersonship to be passed on to a new person. Monterey's new Select Board chair is Muriel Lazzarini, who was nominated, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Wired for Sight and Sound

Over the past weeks the Select Board has heard presentations from Crocker Communications and Cornerstone, contenders for providing the networked fiber-optic connections for the Fire Department, Police Department, library, and town hall.

Cornerstone came back for a second round of questions from the heads of all the departments involved, and the Select Board decided that Cornerstone was best able to meet the town's needs.

Cornerstone will draw up a detailed proposal that will provide 10 megabytes of networked fiber-optic Internet service to the various departments, with the town hall being used as a hub.

The Cost of Not Going Paperless

Submitting a building permit online, whether it's for rewiring, plumbing, or home improvement, saves time and money for both tradespeople and Don Torrico, Monterey's building commissioner. And not submitting the permits electronically will now cost the applicants even more. At the May 27th Select Board meeting, Torrico requested the board's approval to charge a $20 administrative fee to those refusing to submit building permits electronically. The board approved the request.

Town Accountant Resigns

Jennifer Goewey, recently appointed Monterey Town Accountant, resigned on May 26 due to serious health issues that arose after she accepted the position. Pat Mielke has agreed to fill in temporarily until a replacement can be found. ॐ

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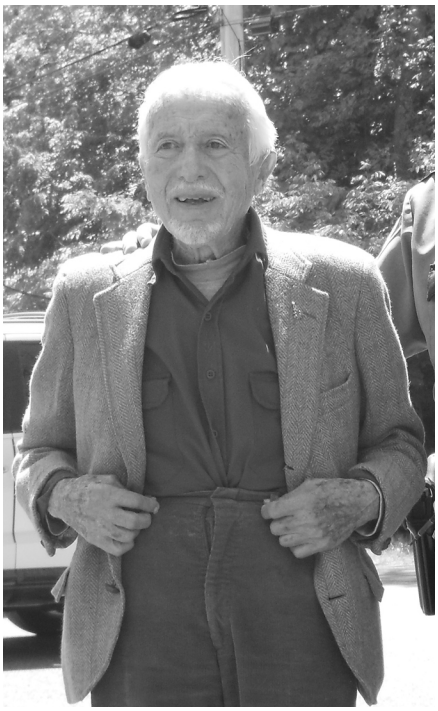
Memorial Day, 2013

I hear owls calling as I sit down to write this on a late May evening. On a late May evening within days after the body of a young Berkshire County man in uniform has been laid to rest. Native tradition says when you hear an owl call your name, you know it's time to leave this beautiful, dreadful, wonderful place. I doubt if the young man I speak of had the comfort of that clear direction, so I'm going to romantically imagine that the owls which are calling as I write, speak, if belatedly, to him.

I'd like to speak to him, too. Perhaps on behalf of all of us. Thank you, Army Specialist Mitchell K. Daeling (May 14, Afghanistan; Dalton). I hope the courage you developed in response to your country's call, and the depth of brotherhood you shared with your comrades in the combat zone, goes with you.

I believe it does. I believe you learned early what it sometimes takes decades more than you had available to learn: that the things that matter, the things that go with us, aren't things at all. Some folks call them hope, faith, love, and laughter. That's what your family and friends remember because that's the best of what you all shared. What you, and they, still carry, and still share.



photos by Will Marsh

Memorial Day 2013: (left) Leonard Weber, Monterey's oldest veteran; (above) Dean & Fran Amidon

I hope that the gift you gave makes a difference in us. I believe it does. If we let it.

I hope your gift makes a difference in our world, and in the world of all who are young enough to be called to combat. I believe it will. If we let it. Each of us here has names we'd add to a roll call of those youngsters whom we bless with our own share of hope, faith, love, and laughter. My family list of those kids starts like this: my cousins Dan and Nick, David, Ryan, John, Sean, Jack, and Mark. It continues with my grandnephews Jack, Ben, and Lane. It continues beyond family, of course. Feel free to add their names to your list. Just ask, and I'll add your list to mine.

I have one more name to add: Edward Passetto, a former Marine sergeant from Lee, who was also the son of a Navy vet. His death wasn't a direct combat loss, but an indirect one. Passetto, who died on Monument Mountain on May 11, "pulled others from the smoldering ruins of a helicopter in Afghanistan in 2009 but later struggled with post-traumatic stress," according to the *Springfield Times-Union*.

Today we remember all those who went to war and who died there, or left parts of their souls there. We honor, as well, all who returned home to create full and productive lives, and we honor the lives of those in war zones today. May our honoring, our remembering, make a difference.

I believe it can. More of a difference than we may ever know.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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Bidwell House Events

Achieving Equality for Women, and How the Shakers Did It, June 15

The Bidwell House Museum History Talk series will open this year with a talk entitled "Shaker Equality of the Sexes, 1788–1890. History scholar and author Glendyne Wergland will talk about the roles of men and women in Shaker communities. Wergland graduated from Mount Holyoke College and received her PhD from University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is the author of *Sisters in the Faith: Shaker Women and Equality of the Sexes* (published 2011); *One Shaker Life: Isaac Newton Youngs, 1793–1865* (2005); and two volumes of *Visiting the Shakers*. She works as an independent scholar and consultant, and volunteers for Hancock Shaker Village. The talk will be held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham at 10 am, Saturday, June 15. The cost is $15, $10 for members.

Tyringham Garden Tour, June 29

The Tyringham Hop Brook Community Club is inviting everyone to a Tyringham Garden Tour, themed "Water, Walls, and Wonderful Gardens," on Saturday, June 29, from 10 am to 4 pm. Spend a leisurely day winding your way through the scenic Tyringham Valley, along Goose Pond, and beyond while touring select gardens. Among the special places on the tour are a master stone-wall mason's gardens, a gorgeous fountain, pond and garden, an apple orchard, a famous sculptor's pond and stone walls, a Goose Pond waterfront garden, and the Bidwell heirloom vegetable and perennial gardens.

Please order tickets to the garden tour in advance by sending a check for $15 per person made out to "Hop Brook Community Club" to Tyringham Garden Tour, PO Box 322, Tyringham, MA 01264. Directions and tickets will be mailed out in advance. For questions, please call 413-243-1717. All proceeds from the garden tour benefit the Hop Brook Scholarship Fund.

Township No. 1 Day, Saturday, July 6

Township No. 1 Day, the Bidwell House Museum's free community celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history, is coming back, this year on Saturday, July 6, from 1 to 4:30 pm. Everyone is invited. Fun events are planned for the whole afternoon:

- Live music by local musicians
- Exhibits by the Monterey Historical Society and the Tyringham Historical Commission
- Crafts, games, face-painting for kids
- A baking contest, this year competing for best cookies, cakes or pies
- Timber-framing demonstration
- History talks
- Antiques Appraisals by Charlie Flint of Charles Flint Antiques, Lenox
- And much more!

Bring your friends to spend a fun Saturday afternoon at the Bidwell House Museum on Art School Road. Enter a pie, cookies, or a cake in the contest! All events are free, thanks in part to a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council and a fantastic group of volunteers. For more information, please call 528-6888.

Please note: the museum is closed for tours this day.

—Barbara Palmer, Executive Director

Jazz in Meetinghouse Basement June 29

The Monterey Cultural Council will sponsor a free evening of jazz in the Monterey Meetinghouse basement, Saturday June 29, at 8:00 pm, led by trombonist and Monterey resident Don Mikkelsen. Don has performed and recorded internationally with artists such as Tony Bennett, Nancy Wilson, Louis Bellson, Blood Sweat and Tears, Frank Sinatra, and many others. He has lived in the Berkshires for five years after performing for many years in New York City.

Julia Gottlieb will be featured on vocals. Julia, a Berkshire native, has returned to south county after time touring and in Los Angeles, where she garnered glowing reviews: "Julia's sound spans generations; think Norah Jones meets Chet Baker" (*LAstheplace*); "Julia Gottlieb is a masterful singer, with a laconic, sultry delivery that smiles at you sensuously through the smoke" (Paul Rapp, *Metroland*).

Joining Don and Julia will be Mike Novakowski on guitar, and Otto Gardner on bass, both veteran jazz performers from the Albany area.

Light refreshments will be served.

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Talk by Barbara Swann on Brookmead, June 28

On Friday, June 28, at 7 pm in the Meetinghouse basement, local historian and Monterey treasure Barbara Swann will present "The Colorful and Varied Past of the Monterey House Called Brookmead," stories and pictures from the 1850s to the 1890s, and beyond. She will speak of the Fargos and their neighbors, documented in diaries, letters, and books. Let the past come alive.

This free talk is sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council. Don't miss it.

MontereyFest 2013 Celebrates Gould Farm's 100th Anniversary

Set for Saturday, August 17, MontereyFest 2013 will also be celebrating Gould Farm's 100th anniversary in Monterey.

The venue for most of MontereyFest's morning activities—except for the fishing contest at the Hatchery—will be at the lower level of Gould Farm. Plans are under way to have a petting zoo, lots of games, hayrides, and lunch available at the Farm. There will also be a 1½ mile walk on Diane's Trail, led by naturalist, Bob Rausch.

The afternoon and evening activities will take place at Lake Garfield.

Community Center News

The Community Center received a huge boost at town meeting, both from the amazing support voiced by the meeting and from the vote to appropriate more money than we'd requested. The promise of this large sum in July has enabled us to follow a more practical sequence in scheduling the construction phase of the renovation.

Joe Baker

The crew from Baystate Contracting in front of the exposed post and beam frame of the Wilson McLaughlin House: (l to r) Eric, Tom, Timmy and Tim.

At present the de-leading process has been completed (see photo), which was expensive and was a huge obstacle to construction progress. We are relieved to have it accomplished and excited at the changes to come soon. When you drive by Edith Wilson's old house on the corner of Main Road and New Marlborough Road, you'll see the frame wrapped with blue and green tarps to keep the weather out—it's a very different look from the old, peeling clapboards and window frames we've been accustomed to seeing.

The bid proposal is out for the next steps in repairs to the house: foundation and frame repairs, and replacement of the joists and subfloor for the main floor. Work should commence in early July.

Townspeople have been enjoying the benefits of this property lately—a recent swamp walk and the community garden plant sale—and you're welcome to come by any time to see for yourself.

Please join us in celebrating the artistic life of Edith Wilson as we exhibit a number of her paintings at the Knox Gallery of the Monterey Library in June. There is an opening reception on Friday, June 7, from 6:00–7:30 pm.

—Joe Baker,
Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House

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Pilgrimage: From Our Lady of the Hills to Our Lady of the Valley, June 8–9

All are welcome to walk our third annual parish pilgrimage. No, we are not headed for Rome or Fatima, but we find fellowship and renewal right here in southern Berkshire County, in the beautiful hills and churches in our own parish.

We start at noon on Saturday, June 8, at Our Lady of the Hills Chapel, 70 Beartown Mountain Road Monterey. We will meet outside. We journey south around Dry Hill to Immaculate Conception church in Mill River, where refreshments, prayers, and a campfire are held. Those who wish to sleep over are welcome, but that is optional. The next day the journey continues toward the west and ends at Our Lady of the Valley Church at 99 Maple Avenue, Sheffield, just in time for the annual outdoor mass and picnic at 11 am, Sunday, June 9.

You may join in to any part of this weekend. A sweep car is there to pick you up should you need it. If you have questions, email Mary Makuc at mtmountainlaurel@yahoo.com.

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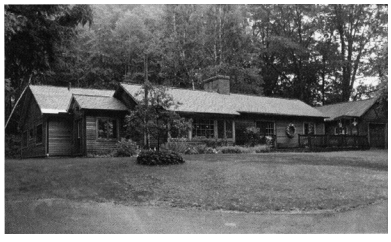

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Monterey Fire Company 36th Annual Steak Roast July 27

The steaks (and swordfish) will be sizzling! Pretty much the epitome of American small-town, summertime fun, the Monterey Fire Company's 36th annual Steak Roast will be held on Saturday, July 27, from 5–7 pm, at the pavilion behind the firehouse.

Bring your family, your friends, and your appetites. Tickets are $25 each and can be purchased in any of the following ways:

- from any firefighter;
- at a table across from the post office in downtown Monterey on weekend mornings during July;
- at the Transfer Station on weekends;
- on Wednesday evenings at the firehouse, 411 Main Road, from 7 to 9 pm;
- by calling 528-3136 (leave a message; someone will get back to you).

Tickets will *not* be available at the gate.

In addition to children's entertainment, the evening will include famed masters of old-timey American root music Moonshine Holler, whose repertoire includes hillbilly blues, mountain ballads, and spirited renditions of banjo/fiddle breakdowns and "knock-your-socks-off flatfoot dancing."

Visit Fire Company's New Website

The Monterey Fire Company has updated its website. Visit montereyfire.org to check out our new look.

The website includes a history of the fire company, a meet-the-members page, news and events, and photos of the company's fire apparatus. It also includes a downloadable form to rent the fire company's facilities.

The Monterey Fire Company was organized in 1930.

A summertime high point in Monterey, the Steak Roast draws more than 700 townspeople and summer visitors. Prepared by the fire company and its families and friends, the food includes steaks, swordfish, assorted side dishes, salad, desserts, beer, wine, and soft drinks.

The Steak Roast, a critical fundraiser for the Monterey Fire Company, began in 1977.

"It's a great day for the town," said Fire Chief Shawn Tryon. "The food is really good. The music is really good. It's all for a good cause, and we invite everyone to join us."

ॐ

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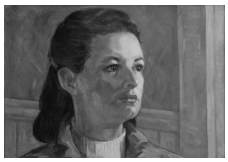

(from left) Carnival, Florence 1953*, and* Self-Portrait *(1950s) by Monterey artist Edith L. Wilson*

The Knox Gallery in June

Edith L. Wilson: Monterey Artist

During June the Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, presents *Edith L. Wilson: Monterey Artist*. In celebration of the centennial of her birth, the exhibit opens with a reception on Friday, June 7, from 6-7:30 pm.

Edith Lavinia Wilson arrived in Monterey in 1942 with her friend and fellow graduate of the Chicago Art Institute, Marjorie McLaughlin. Edith was a versatile artist who worked as a painter, sculptor, and architect. Many of her oil paintings can be seen in the Monterey Town Hall. Her design for the town seal continues to represent Monterey on many a document, T-shirt, and coffee mug.

In addition to her commitment to her art, Ms. Wilson actively participated in town affairs. She served on the school board, planning board, board of appeals, and historical commission. A pivotal figure in establishing Monterey's first zoning bylaws and planning board, she went on to lobby for state legislation that allowed election of planning-board officials. Monterey was the first township in the commonwealth to elect a planning board.

Edith Wilson passed away in 1995, preceded in death by her friend Marjorie McLaughlin in 1991. In addition to her paintings, she left to the Town of Monterey her house and 28 acres of land located on the corner of Main and New Marlborough Roads. The Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House, a citizen-run nonprofit, was formed in 2005 to utilize her homestead as the Monterey Community Center. Read more details at www.ccmonterey.org

Edith Wilson also established the McLaughlin Wilson Scholarship Fund, managed by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Numerous Monterey young people have benefited from the scholarships, which fund significant portions of college tuition.

The upcoming exhibition will feature Ms. Wilson's work in various media that spans many decades of her long and productive life. The exhibit runs from June 7 through July 6 and can be viewed during library hours.

Application forms for the Knox Gallery summer community exhibit, *Matter Reconsidered*, are now available at the Monterey Library and online. If you are considering applying for this exhibition but need a little extra inspiration, please check out the books the Knox Gallery Committee has put on hold at the library—you will find them on the table to the right of the front desk. Applications for this group exhibition, open to all Monterey residents and friends, are due June 14. Work must be delivered to the Monterey Library Tuesday, July 9, between 9:30 am and noon. One piece per artist, in any medium, will be included in the exhibit. For more details please check the application form and the May issue of the *Monterey News*.

—MaryPaul Yates

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Who's Who in Monterey
Judy Bach

Judy's home is such a clear reflection of who she is that you'd think she's lived there forever, and ever will. Overlooking Lake Garfield, paneled and furnished in warm wooden tones, decorated with her own paintings and objets d'art, it's pacifying and inspiring, quiet but alive. When I arrived, the spring morning was cold and her house felt especially warm, her living room especially inviting. She answered the door while also answering the phone; Judy, as ever, was available to those calling on her.

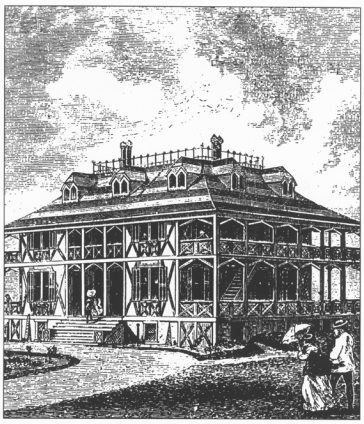
Judy Bach was born Judith Kaplan in Detroit, where she spent her childhood. As a young woman she moved to New York, where she was an actress for many years, and an accomplished one at that. There she married her first husband, Joe Friedman, a professor of English, and with him had three sons, Jeffrey, William, and Eric. They lived on West End Avenue and, along with acting, Judy was also a researcher for a magazine entitled *M.D.* This was an ambitious publication, established by Spanish émigré Félix Martí-Ibáñez, and provided Judy with work she loved and found extremely challenging. Yet, she felt none of these pursuits to be her calling. Though all were arts at which she showed great talent—acting, researching, writing—none was to be her life's work.

Elizabeth Goodman

This became clear to her one day on the subway. It was crowded, packed full as a tin of sardines. But in the center of the car there seemed to be some space. So Judy pressed through to where she supposed she might more comfortably stand. Yet when she reached this empty center, she saw the reason for it: one man who stank so badly that it was repellant, except to Judy. She sensed in his apparently unknown desperation her own ability to stand with him, beside him, not repelled by him but held in his presence. She sensed also in this the gift by which she would establish her life: she would help people become fully human, become fulfilled people.

Meanwhile, her work at *M.D.* had become so stressful that she would tremble anxiously upon entering the building each morning. This, as you might guess, opened her thinking all the more to what life might await her beyond the bounds of this job. By now, her marriage with Joe had come to end, though a peaceful one; her children had grown, the youngest two still in high school, and the oldest now moved out on his own; and one day she found herself driving north out of the city.

She ended up in Lenox, exploring what she'd assumed was territory unknown to her. But once she was there, she remembered having come as a child to a summer camp there. Established by a German couple who had left their country out of a rejection of Nazi ideology and rule, the camp was to be a place for Jewish children who'd been forced to flee. That was not Judy's circumstance, but her family was sympathetic to this cause and wanted to lend support—so they sent Judy, something she remembered fondly. She'd never supposed she might return, yet here she was, in the place that was almost home.



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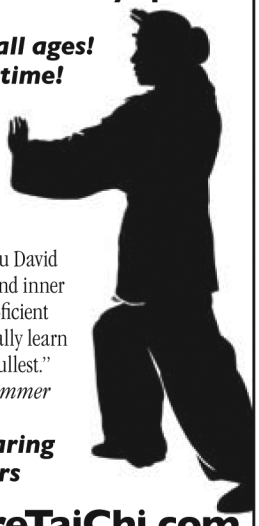

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She finally settled upon land in Monterey, an eighty-acre farmstead on Hupi Road. It was to this old house that Judy moved herself and her boys, Will and Rick—an extreme move that Will and Rick felt most of all.

When the two entered Undermountain School in Sheffield, they were outsiders in many ways, newcomers among a group of children that had been in school together for years, city folks among people whose aesthetic and mindset were rural, the first Jews some of their classmates had ever met. Their first few months were stressful, painful.

But then basketball season was upon them. They'd been playing basketball in city parks, in school playgrounds, on street corners, since before they could remember. In sum, they were terrific basketball players, and that won them a place among their classmates—a winning place. So, yes, it would be an overstatement to say that this all made the Berkshires feel like home to the boys (who, now men, both live back in New York City), but it did at least make their adolescence here mostly positive.

This fact freed Judy to find a life here for herself. And that she did. Here she met and married David Bach, and here she established, along with David, a series of workshops and a therapeutic practice in the field of psychosynthesis, which people the world over have found enlightening and healing.

Briefly (and with thanks to Wikipedia), psychosynthesis "is an approach to psychology that was developed by Roberto Assagioli, M.D.," who, early in the twentieth century, asserted that "the direct experience of the self, of pure *self-awareness*, . . . is true." The goals of this process are "'Self-Realization" and the "interindividual psychosynthesis of social integration," which is "the harmonious integration of the individual into ever larger groups up to the 'one humanity'" of which all people are members.

For years, psychosynthesis was the guiding philosophy and organizing principal for Judy and the work that would become the manifestation of what she learned on that subway car long ago. She had a private therapeutic practice. She co-authored a book, *How to Play Nice Together: Creating Community Locally and Globally*. She earned a PhD in Human Systems Design. And she continues to serve on the board of the Center for Peace Through Culture, an organization based here in Monterey but far-reaching in its membership and participation, and ambitious in its goal of spreading world peace, all with roots founded in psychosynthesis theory and practice.

Judy explains that she's "lived in layers" and continues to do so now. Much has changed: David has since died, and she has since retired her private practice. But she's at work on a novel, which, though stuck at page 50, she embraces as her "dharma." She's also readying to make another move, this time perhaps to Lenox, that place she thought she'd never been to but where she will perhaps once again find herself. Speaking of it, she looks forward, out the front window, overlooking the lake, hopeful and peaceful. It's a remarkable combination!

—Elizabeth Goodman

Otis Sup' & Swing Dinner & Concert June 22

On Saturday, June 22, the Otis Cultural Council and Otis Community Day Committee are cosponsoring a free dance, with a bring-your-own picnic dinner, at Isaak Walton Field, Route 8 (just north of Farmington School), Otis.

Wanda Houston will perform with the Skeletones, a dangerous R &B Roadhouse Band known for bringing down the house. Bring your picnic dinner at 6 pm. The music kicks off at 7:30 pm.

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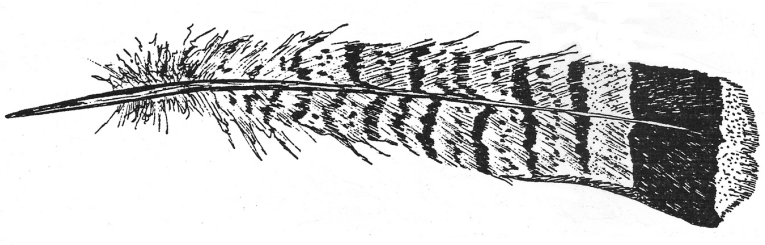
The Partridge: Spring and Summer Drummer

This time of year you might hear a drummer in the woods. The beat starts slow and deep, "boom . . . boom . . . boom . . . boom . . . ," a sound that has been likened to "the muffled beating of a great heart" (Edward Howe Forbush, *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, Vol. II, 1925, p. 30). Then the pace picks up to a fast drumroll, still on the deep pitch of the first heartbeats. Hearing it for the first time, or even just for the first time this year, you might at first think someone is starting an engine in the woods somewhere—but you can't say where. Folks who have heard this drum agree there is no telling what direction the sound is coming from. It is ventriloquial. You would have to be lucky to see the performance, but if you did you would find the drummer is a bird, a partridge or ruffed grouse, cousin to our domestic chickens and turkeys and the other "gallinaceous" birds

Some New Englanders call this bird a patridge, and some a pheasant. We grew up saying "pahtridge," and I always associated it with pahtridge berries, taught to me by my dad with his Boston accent. Partridge berries are little and red, grow close to the ground. They don't taste like much, though they won't hurt you. I used to wonder why the partridges bothered with them when there were always sweeter, zippier wintergreen berries nearby.

The drum performance of the male partridge is spectacular. Early nature students like Thoreau heard that deep and powerful thumping and guessed the bird must be beating on a hollow log. He turns out to be beating the air, cupped between his wings. He may stand on a log, or just as likely a stump or a fence or a rock. Very erect, he braces on his stiff tail and raises his dark neck ruffs, lifting his wings until they practically meet across his back, behind his head. Then he beats forward, clapping the air between them, but never touching the wings together. The deep sound, which carries a quarter of a mile, is produced like thunder: by clapping the air.



During the drum phrase, the bird rears back farther and farther, and after finishing he springs forward, rests, and drums again. F. Schuyler Matthews, in *Field Book Of Wild Birds and their Music* (1904, p. 8), writes: "Upon seeing the bird go through this remarkable performance one is struck with amazement, for at the end he subsides into utter quiescence instead of flying all to pieces! Why the stump or the rock on which he is perched is not at once covered with every feather from his body is difficult to understand. But no, he still holds together, and probably if one waits a few more minutes he will be at it again. Watch him closely, and presently the head begins to bob up exactly like that of a rooster before he begins to crow, now the wings are spread and jerk back and forward with a hollow thud at each movement, and the next moment the whole bird is a blurr of feathers and the air is filled with a rushing whir which is swiftly graduated to a finish as the body of the creature becomes distinct and quiet one more."

This is only the remarkable account of a cock partridge drumming. The partridge can also fight off a fox, and once when I was a kid we were in our family car on Blue Hill Road and a partridge walked up the center of the road and charged us, making us back and back and back. A partridge is nearly invisible in the woods and will hold still for safety. At the last minute, though, it erupts into flight with such a "breathtaking roar" that anyone nearby will start a drumming heartbeat of his or her own. This noisy takeoff includes fast and furious flight through woods and thickets, and sometimes a bird will fly headfirst into a tree or a forked branch or a barn wall. Some people have called partridges "fool hens," with a so-called crazy season, especially in the fall when they are most likely to crash into houses or to "rush wildly from place to place by day or by night" (Forbush, p. 29.) Ernest Thompson Seton writes that

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Bonner McAllester & Joe Baker

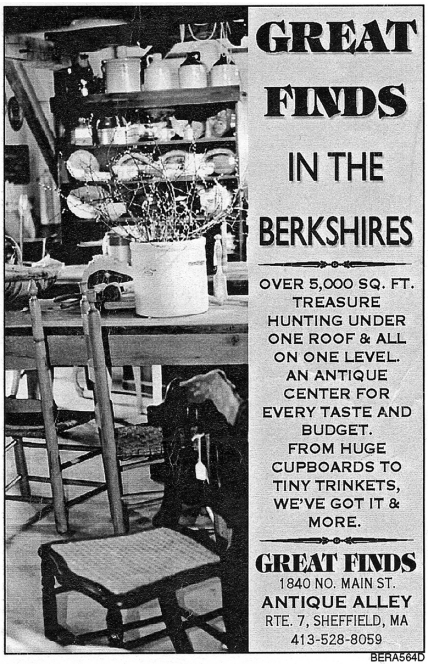
this is only typical of young birds, in their first or second year and after that they are not so crazy.

Some people are lucky enough to see a partridge come up close, seemingly not only trusting but maybe even looking for companionship—in a human being, of all things. There are more accounts of this from long ago, but the tame and trusting wildlife don't last long and most survivors of any species have learned to keep their distance from hunters and the rest of us folks.

Partridges are designed to do well in winter, with little snowshoes developing on each foot. The toes are "pectinated" or toothed like a comb. This enables the birds to walk on snow without sinking. They also dive into snowbanks for shelter and have been seen to do this while in flight to escape a predator and then to come swooping right up and out again after traveling several feet under the snow.

Ruffed grouse, partridge, woods drummer. This is a strong bird, crazy at times, innocently trusting, able to disappear on the ground in camouflaged stillness and then crash up and away like a rocket. One more miracle, in brown, black, grey, and tawny feathers, salt-and-peppered to blend in with the woods. These same feathers can stand up and clap like thunder, though the bird is still invisible. Next superhero movie? I'm ready for *The Partridge*.

—Bonner J. McAllester



Three Ninja Pigs Spotted at Monterey Library

Hy Rosen

Corey Rosen Schwartz with her new book and a fan

Corey Rosen Schwartz read from her newest, best-selling children's book, *The Three Ninja Pigs*, on Saturday morning, May 25, at the Monterey Library.

Practice makes perfect in this kick-butt fractured fairy tale. Why does the wolf think he can come to town and blow all the houses down? These three little pigs decide not to take it from that bully anymore! The first starts aikido lessons—he'll make mincemeat out of that wolf! His brother learns a little jujitsu—he'll chop that guy to pieces!

But when the wolf actually appears, it turns out these two pigs aren't quite ready after all. Good thing their sister has been training every day to master some serious karate moves that save the day. KIYA!

Corey Rosen Schwartz served up a fun combination of smart-aleck dialogue and tongue-in-cheek rhymes to the delight of kids and adults alike.

—Hy Rosen

Otis Fair Call For Vendors

The Otis Library Country Fair seeks artists, craftsmen, and vendors for the annual event on Saturday, July 13, from 10 am–3:30 pm (rain or shine). The fair is held on the Church Green on Route 8 in Otis center and has attracted thousands of tourists, second homeowners, Berkshire County residents, and guests over many years. The fair features about fifty unique, quality vendors from throughout the Northeast. Space is available on a first come–first served basis and sells out fast. The cost is $35/space (tables not provided) before June 1 and $40 after.

Send payment, email address, phone number, physical address, and product info to The Otis Library, 48 North Main Street, Otis, MA 01253. For more information, contact the Otis Library at 413-269-0109 or reply to this listing via email. Vendor setup time on July 13 starts at 8 am.

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Ray Tryon: Caterpillar Collector

After more than half a century as Monterey Fire Chief and Town Constable, Ray Tryon, a veteran of dedicated service, has a unique but not totally unrelated hobby of collecting Caterpillars! They are not the larva that morph into butterflies and fly away. Quite to the contrary, each of the nine Big Cats in his collection, from Model 0-2 to 0-4, 0-6, 0-8 and 0-9, can be measured in size by the number of tons they weigh .The claws of their treads are firmly planted on the ground in and around sheds behind Lee's residence, and their lifespan is measured in number of operating hours rather than mileage.

Each diesel-driven iron workhorse in Ray's stable is groomed in working order, standing there as a sentinel in time of periodic model modification over roughly the same half century. The origin of this species began as steam-driven, 450KG horsepower steeds, able to move mountains of earth and smooth miles of roadbed. They also left lasting impressions of their tracks sinking into soft earth. Holt Manufacturing Company, a pioneer in Caterpillar engineering, replaced wheels with a set of wooden tracks, bolted to chains, crawling like a Caterpillar on an endless moving platform, backward and forward, so earning the name Caterpillar. The 0-2 illustrated was only one of a few models with an overhead cable to raise and lower the front blade.

In 1925 Holt and C. L. Best Tractor Company merged to later become Caterpillar Tractor Company in Peoria, Illinois, now a prominent member of the Dow Jones Industrial Averages, and, like John Deer, a world leader of construction and agricultural equipment. In World War I Benjamin Holt's track-type tractors developed in England to become gun tractors and/or tanks, which forever altered ground warfare around the globe. World War II brought Caterpillar fame with Seabee construction battalions, and two charges in Ray's collection are veterans, dating to 1943 and 1944. Gun tractors produced generals such as Patton, Montgomery, and Rommel, who won and lost critical battles in North Africa and Europe by rapid military maneuvers as Tank Commanders.

Ray's hobby is also reflected in a nonprofit Antique Caterpillar Owners Club in the U.S. and Canada, established to assist and educate its members and the general public with memorabilia displays such as the Vintage Tractor Museum in Western Australia. A recent editorial in their magazine tells that the future of their membership rests with involving youth of the next generation. Ray's mold of mechanical expertise was formed in his boyhood years with no formal schooling or training. Remarkably, he was able to disassemble and put back together complex machinery components at an early age, with no parts left over.

In 1949 Tryon's garage caught fire, and Ray went to the firehouse to get the engine but it wouldn't start. With fire in his eye, he told his friend Bob Hebert that as long as he was around, such a thing would never happen again. This may have sparked a mindset of a higher standard of town-machinery maintenance that lives on to this very day. Monterey is well known as one of the best places to live, with one of the lowest tax rates in the state. It may be no coincidence that the Fire Department, Police Department and Highway Department are also among the very best. All this results from the personal history of dedicated citizens and employees, not to mention one in particular whose name is in the title of this article.

—George B. Emmons

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Local Nano 519 at Beulah Land Farm

Two years after planting our little ***Nano Store*** next to the driveway on Route 23, we're still chuggin' along with dreams and visions, building and believing for the ever-expanding bigness spreading across our yard and years. We have our usual goodies in stock and beautiful bounty photosynthesizing out back, so it seems we may soon be expanding our refrigeration department.

So what else is new this year? Well, besides the fresh wave of scampering baby chicks and turklings fast gaining volume, our subterranean greenhouse has really been coming together nicely. We've been enjoying exuberant salads of herbs and greens and edible flowers. And while the renovations continue we have a beautiful spot in the house to share the amazing health benefits of our Magna Charger Pro. The simplest way to explain it is like a comfy chair that delivers a pulsed magnetic massage right to the deepest cells of the body. Even our fifteen-year-old Beulah dog has been reaping great benefit. We are addicted and it's been transforming our health so that we can leap tall buildings in a single bound. Well, at least my husband can. I'm not there yet. Please look up www.youneedthepulse.com or call to inquire or try it out.

And as far as leaping tall buildings we're very excited at the prospect of erecting a fine specimen of eighteenth-century early English hand-hewn barn as soon as next spring. We're in the planning stages of coordinating an opportunity for would-be and seasoned timber framers to come together and *RAISE IT UP*. This would be the mainspring for all the other *BIG IDEAS*, ours and maybe yours—a reclaimed, restored barn where so much more can grow and come to be: a multi-purpose gathering space for classes and farm store and all things community and creative. Please poke your head around when shopping at our farm hut. We welcome weeders and the curious and any who have something to contribute. We invite other Monterey makers ready to sell their products in the ***Nano Store*** (413-644-8844). We love to share with like-minded, community-minded, out-of-the-box, off-the-grid, make-it-happen, catch-the-vision visionaries. Stay tuned for more from the Nano muse.

—Debra Squire

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From the Meetinghouse

You may have the opportunity to see me running up and down Main Street on June 3. If so, I'll be scattering clouds of silver confetti.

To repeat: you *may* have that opportunity. I haven't decided yet whether to actually do that or whether to just keep the image as a metaphor. Either way, on the first Tuesday in June I'll be celebrating 25 years in Monterey. And celebrating 25 years in the same house.

When Bonsai and I moved here, I was 42, and I'd already lived in 26 other places I'd called home. Given that I lived in one other place for 15 years, some of those moves were pretty close together. In Manhattan, I moved—yes, by choice—every time a rental lease expired. Stability wasn't a word I would have applied to my sense of the physical world when I moved into town.

But there's something about Monterey that conspires to give each of us who shows up here exactly what we need. Maybe it's karma, grace, or the spirit of the land. But definitely, as we've heard rumored before, it's the people that make the place. Now, as I start a second quarter-century here, I feel enfolded in a very tangible long-lasting embrace. So, thank you, Gentle Readers, Fellow Townsfolk. Thank you karma, grace, and the spirit of the land. Here's to scattering handfuls of gold confetti in June 2038.

—Mary Kate Jordan

"Garden Gustation"

What's cooking from Monterey Gardens & Farms

Springtime 'Sparagus Supper

As I write this, we are having great success with our asparagus bed, now in its fifth season. The rain has been nicely timed (now that we are having some), and the asparagus seems happy. What a great time of year; I think it's my favorite (at least until fall comes). We have harvested about ten pounds of delicious spears so far. I'll be making some asparagus soup to freeze, and we'll keep roasting it and eating it as long as we can. I came across the idea for this recipe in one of my mother's magazines recently. I thought, asparagus in a cheese sauce over a homemade biscuit . . . how could that be bad? After all, there weren't any strawberries yet for the other "shortcake."

I wrote last year about mulching our asparagus with the wool skirtings from a friend's sheep shearing. The wool has held up well as mulch, and I think the decomposing dingle berries have given our asparagus a needed boost. We did struggle some last year with asparagus beetles. The asparagus beetle lays its eggs along the spears in a straight line of 3–8 eggs. The larvae then chew unappealing holes into the asparagus spears and tips. We tried to nip these creatures in the bud by smearing off the eggs and also picking off the beetles as often as possible. I dare to even say it but we haven't seen any egg laying yet. Maybe this cool spring has helped?

So try this springtime supper with

Stephen Moore

a salad of fresh garden greens and a few extra roasted asparagus spears alongside. If you'd like a little more protein, add a poached egg to the top of this shortcake, although that's feeling a bit like eggs Benedict . . . hmmm . . . maybe this would be good for breakfast too; we'll see how much asparagus we HAVE to eat. What a way to go. Enjoy!

Asparagus Shortcake

(*Underlined ingredients ours or local*)

One recipe of Mom's Baking Powder Biscuits: below (or your own favorite recipe).

Filling

1½ pounds fresh asparagus, cut in 1" lengths, lightly oiled and roasted 10–15 minutes on a cookie sheet at 375 degrees
2 Tblsp. butter
2 Tblsp. flour
2–3 Tblsp. minced onions
1½ cups High Lawn Farm milk
4 oz. grated sharp cheddar cheese (try Gould Farm's or Vermont Cabot)
salt & pepper to taste

Melt butter over medium heat in saucepan. Add onions and cook until translucent, about 5 minutes. Add flour and stir over medium-low heat for about 3 minutes. Return heat to medium and slowly add milk. Cook and stir until mixture thickens. Add grated cheese and stir until melted, remove from heat. Mix in roasted asparagus pieces and add salt and pepper to taste.

Cut biscuits in half horizontally. Pour asparagus sauce over bottoms and replace tops. Pour additional sauce over top if desired. Sprinkle the top with some fresh chopped herbs. I had parsley and chives available. Makes 4–6 shortcakes.

Mom's Baking Powder Biscuits

2 cups flour
4 tsp. baking powder
½ cup cold butter
little salt
½–¾ cups High Lawn Farm milk

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a large bowl, cut the butter into the flour, baking powder, and salt until a coarse meal is formed. Slowly add the milk and stir just until milk is incorporated; do not over stir. Dough will be craggy. Place dough onto a lightly floured surface and gently knead once or twice. Roll out to about 1" thick and cut out biscuits with a 2.5" biscuit cutter. Place on cookie sheet. Makes about 9 biscuits. Bake biscuits for 15–20 minutes or until golden brown.

What's growing in your garden and cooking in your kitchen?

—Wendy Jensen, wendygj@gmail.com

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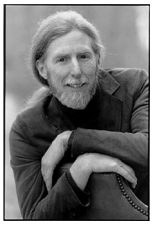

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Gabriella Makuc in June 9th Benefit Concert

On Sunday, June 9, at 4:00 pm, the Ferris Burtis Music Foundation and the Berkshire Taconic Foundation will present its third annual Benefit Concert at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Hammertown Road in Sandisfield.

Four brilliant young artists who are supported by the foundation will perform:

Pianist **Gabriella Makuc** of Monterey is a music student at Lawrence University in Appleton Wisconsin. She has studied piano with Anne Marie Enoch, Robert Neidig, and Jean Stackhouse. She now studies with Catherine Kautsky at Lawrence, where she is an accompanying fellow in a vocal studio and a member of the women's choir, Cantala. She has won top prizes in the Berkshire Music School Merit Scholarship Competition, the Young Artists Piano competition at Westfield State University, and the Berkshire Lyric Theatre Young Musicians Scholarship Competition. She was last year's winner of the Ferris Burtis Music Foundation scholarship grant. She recently represented the state of Wisconsin in a regional MTNA competition in Chicago. She has spent her summers at Point Counter Point Chamber Music Camp at Westminster Choir College and at Blue Mountain Festival. She has soloed with the Stockbridge Sinfonia.

Hailed for his dazzling command of the violin and its repertoire, as well as a communicative immediacy that harkens back to the legendary Romantic masters, Russian-American violinist **Yevgeny Kutik** has become a highly sought-after artist on the concert stage worldwide. The Foundation has helped in his education and in furthering his career.

Cellist **Julian Müller** is currently studying at the Cleveland Institute of Music with Sharon Robinson. He has also studied with Ronald Feldman, Helene Annas, Jay Shulman, and Georg Faust. In 2012 he was selected for the New York String Orchestra Seminar, performing in Carnegie Hall. In 2011 Julian won first prize at the Uel Wade Music Competition. He was also awarded grants from the Ferris Burtis Music Foundation and the Henriette Reiss Award. He won first prize at the Stefan Concerto Competition. As principal cellist in the Empire State Youth Orchestra, he performed at the Mozarteum, Rudolfinum, Carnegie Hall, the Fisher Center at Bard College, the Palace Theatre, Proctors Theatre, Ozawa Hall, and at the Troy Savings Bank. Last summer he was a young artist at the Manchester Music Festival.

Soprano **Katie Weiser** recently graduated from Smith College, where she studied with Herbert Burtis, Jane Bryden, and Clifton J. Noble. A music major, she was the first vocalist at Smith to receive the Concentration in Performance. Katie began her classical music education at the age of seven when she joined the semiprofessional children's choir Chorus Angelicus, under the direction of Paul Halley. Katie has been taking voice lessons since the fifth grade, originally with Laura Mashburn. She has also appeared in the main stage productions at TriArts Sharon Playhouse since 2000. In March of 2009, she was awarded the Burton O. Cowgill award from the New England Music Festival, given to the musician who has been a member of the festival for all four years and who has received the highest score in the Solo and Ensemble Festival adjudications. While attending Smith College, she was a member of the Glee Club, Chamber Singers, won the Smith College Concerto Competition as a sophomore, performed as Sister Genovieffa in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, and sang first soprano in a select group with the New York City Ballet. This year she has performed two senior recitals, one in the fall and one in May. She is a recipient of a Ferris Burtis Scholarship grant.

Reservations for the concert are $20.00 each. The Ferris Burtis Music Foundation was established in 1987 by the late John Ferris and by Herbert Burtis to promote the education and careers of talented young musicians. All funds go toward the aid of these talented young artists. You may mail checks for reservation orders and tax-free special gifts to Herbert Burtis, 53 Rood Hill Road, Sandisfield, MA 01255. Make out the check to 'Ferris Burtis Foundation.' Your name will be placed in the program for gifts of $100 or more. Please include your email address for confirmation.

For more information: www.hburtis.com or email roodhill@verizon.net.

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May Wildlife Report
Fox Pups, Moose, Cranes, a Swan

Ted Warner called from Blue Hill Road to tell of a young wildcat on his lawn. He did not mean a tame cat gone wild. "Wildcat" is a proper way to refer to what some call a "bobcat." Either way, Ted had one that stopped, rolled, left, and came back. It made a try for a bird on the lawn. On the same lawn, Ted also has a cottontail rabbit that has been around for over a year.

Both Steve Snyder and Kit Patten have seen moose this past month. Steve's was on Route 23 near the Otis line, and though Steve tried with his car to urge her off to the side, away from oncoming traffic, she preferred to stay on the road. Early in the month, Kit was on Beartown Mountain Road near old Brett Road, by a marsh marigold area. He saw a big moose which went off the road and into Toad Hall. The moose had no antlers and may have been a big female, or cow moose. It could also have been a bull moose; they shed their antlers in the winter and new ones start to grow in April. You might not see them when they are small nubs.

Mickey Jervas called early in the month to report a brown-colored bat on her porch, sitting on an old nest. Maureen Regan saw a mute swan on Lake Garfield May 8, at the small end of the lake, out in the middle. "Mute swan" refers to a certain species, not just some swan that has quit talking. Another fine water bird is the American bittern, heard by Lily Peters in the marshy place behind her house. She hasn't gotten a photo, but did send me an iPhone recording, what I'd call a snap sound, unprintable. I can only give you Edward Howe Forbush's description in his *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, Vol. 1 (1925, p. 316): "A harsh, hollow croak, sometimes rattling and prolonged; usually while flying a nasal *haink* and croaking *ok-ok-ok-ok* (Wm. Brewster); also a 'mere quack' (O.A. Knight); peculiar love notes like the sound of a wooden pump; young, when small, a 'fife-like peep,' later a harsh rattle (C. C. Abbott)."

Sandhill cranes in New Marlborough! (photo by Susie Crofut)

Susie Crofut and Ben Luxon were also visited by wading marsh birds, tall sandhill cranes (see photo), famous for their mating dance. Susie reports their wingspan can be seven feet. They are nearly four feet tall. Over the years we have heard of these visitors, both at Lake Buel and in New Marlborough. They trumpet their arrival, Susie writes. They are also known for rattling, clacking, creaking, and croaking.

Ed Salsitz saw two red fox puppies emerge from a rubber culvert on the Mill River–Clayton Road. They had bushy tails

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and ducked back into the culvert. Ed also sent a sad photo of a young woodcock, probably hit by a car, lying on Fairview Road. Too often we get our only real look at the wonderful wild pals when they lie still, finally.

On April 27 Steve Moore saw a "generously sized" black bear in the Monterey Community Center field, right across the road from his place. Steve Snyder watched a coyote at the Gould Farm gravel pit run up a steep sandbank, about a 60 percent slope. The coyote was able to run straight up it with no disturbance of the sand. Steve also reports the bank swallows are back, about two weeks late this year, and great blue herons are nesting in the wet low place on Blue Hill Road, where it is dirt and closed to traffic and heads into Great Barrington. Steve and others recently watched a big porcupine through a telescope, as it munched on green leaves up in a poplar tree. It had red-orange teeth and ate and ate and then abruptly fell asleep, sitting where the branch meets the tree.

Suzanne Sawyer and Carol Ingher sent in bird reports. There are both evening grosbeaks and red-breasted grosbeaks at Suzanne's, as well as tree swallows, blue birds, and a bald eagle flying in Hartsville where she saw them last year, too. Carol has a female cardinal, downy woodpecker, and a pair of blue jays "nuzzling one another on the deck rail."

A call from Lynn Leavitt took me over to Lake Garfield for a look at some handsome common mergansers on the swimming raft. With their dark heads and pale bodies they can look a lot like eider ducks.

Here on E. Hupi Rd., we saw a red squirrel chase a weasel right across our kitchen windowsill in broad daylight.

The weasel took a flying leap to the ground, about twelve feet down, and disappeared.

It's wild, it's life. Keep calling, keep writing, and many thanks.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385, bmca@berkshire.net

Monterey Library Notes

Time for a sneak preview of our children's programming for the summer! Starting July 6 every Saturday at 10:30 am we'll have something for kids of all ages through July and into August.

Mike Bent the magician will open on July 6. His website is http://abrakidabra.com/—check it out. Be prepared to be dazzled by Mike as he kicks off our summer reading program. The Friends of the Library are sponsoring this program.

On July 13 John Heffernan will return with his Lego Robotics—we'll start tearly at 10:00 am to give the kids time to have a lot of fun as they see how creative they can be combining Legos and robotics. I think the adults had as much fun watching this as the kids did doing it last year. There are limited supplies and space, so be early!

Don't forget to sign up to help out with the annual book sale, which is Saturday, July 27—we need help from 8am to 2 pm. There are all kinds of things to help with—you don't need to lift boxes of books, but if you are capable of lifting boxes of books you can save the gas from going to the gym and be a huge help at the beginning or the end of the sale. Sign up in person at the library, email montereylibrary@gmail.com, or call 413-528-3795! Thanks to all of you who make this our biggest fundraising event!

—Mark Makuc, Library Director

Poetry Workshop with Don Barkin

A free, six-session course in poetry reading and writing will be offered in Monterey starting on July 8. The workshop is sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council and will be taught by Monterey resident Don Barkin, a widely published poet and experienced teacher. The classes will take place on Mondays from 7 to 9 pm at the Monterey Library. The workshop is open to adults sixteen and over. No experience is necessary. Participants will read great poems, old and new, and try their hand at writing poems, in forms such as the ballad and the sonnet, as well as in free verse. Anyone who is interested can email Don Barkin at mbarkin@snet.net or call him at 413-528-3145.

Personal Notes

Sophia Krans has been awarded a grant from the Simple Gifts Fund to attend On Stage with the Berkshire Theater Group, which allows children to work with members of the Berkshire Theater Group to build dramatic skills and gain self-confidence through improvisational skits, theater games, movement exercises and dramatic storytelling.

Contributors

Many thanks to the following folks for their recent contributions in response to our annual appeal. Since I have been editing the *News* for a few years now, your names, and in many cases your faces, have become familiar to me, and all of us on the *News* staff and Board of Directors are touched by and very grateful for your continuing support of our community newspaper. —Ed.

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Cynthia Weber
Leonard Weisman
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Bella August & Belvin Williams
Mr & Mrs Arthur Wing IV
Marc Gordon & Cheryl Zellman

Longing for a Local Lunch

On June 2, *Longing for a Local Lunch*, an inspiring success story featuring students from Monument Mountain High School will be screened during the Berkshire International Film Festival (BIFF) at the Mahaiwe Theater, 1 pm. A Q&A with Producer/Director Lynne Cherry will follow the screening. The film will also be screened at the Triplex on June 23 at 11 am.

Longing for a Local Lunch is the ninth film in the *Young Voices for the Planet* short film series, produced by children's author and filmmaker Lynne Cherry.

Longing for a Local Lunch features four Great Barrington students (Emma Adler, Zoe Borden, Kelt Wilska, and Charlie Gibson) who advocate for a fresh and local lunch. These indefatigable students calculate the nutritional benefits of fresh versus processed food. Concerned about climate change, they contrast the CO_2 emissions —"food miles"—from locally grown food versus produce coming from a distance.

As endless impediments threaten to foil their hopes, the students jump over hurdles, one after another. With support from the PTA, Congressman Smitty Pignatelli, local farms and businesses, health and nutrition officials, teachers, school administrators, locavores, and many other community members, they succeed in getting local fare into their school one day a month. Surely this film will catalyze communities to help improve student health through better school lunches.

If perhaps, you have just moved to Monterey, The Monterey Fire Company would like to welcome you. Over the summer, you will notice your Firefighters selling tickets to the 36th annual Monterey Firemen's Steak Roast on weekends across from the Monterey General Store and at the Monterey Transfer Station. The Steak Roast fundraiser is an all ages, outdoor family picnic cooked by your firefighters. This year, it will be on Sat. July 27th at 5pm at the Monterey Fire Station.
You and your family are invited and we hope you will come. Introduce yourself to our firefighters when you see them.
Welcome!
What is the Steak Roast? Go to:
www.montereyfire.org

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The Swap Shop

To the Editor:
A few weeks ago I darted into the Swap Shop, my usual ritual during my weekly dump run. As many of us do, I wanted to see what discarded treasure I might be able to reclaim for myself from there.

It was the worst disaster I had ever seen! Had Monterey been attacked or bombed and I just didn't know about it yet? Someone (or someones) had obviously moved away, and instead of taking a run to a landfill site, they had junked up our Swap Shop instead.

I immediately noticed a set of very broken venetian blinds to the left of the door, clothing almost a foot deep strewn everywhere, many broken plates and other various and sundry unattractive housewares thrown about, etc. There was NOTHING in there that anyone could have ever used again.

At first I was horrified . . . and then I got angry. My lovely Krupp's espresso pot came from the Swap Shop, as did the small lamp I use daily that sits on my kitchen counter. In fact, most people I know have found, at one time or another, just exactly what they were looking for at the Monterey Swap Shop! We do all believe it's better to recycle than to just toss out, but meanwhile we also employ a degree of commonsense and courtesy along with this, don't we? Isn't it nice to be part of a small town where things like Swap Shops are available?

Eileen Lawlor

I think we all have to take some responsibility here if we want the swapping option to remain available to us.

I have now spoken to Zack, our trusty dump official, and he has told me how it's all supposed to work there:

#1. The Swap Shop is supposed to be maintained by a crew of volunteers from town. Zack is only aware of one person (Valerie) who comes periodically to sort out donations and to straighten up.

#2. **We are NOT to leave any of the following:**

- food
- clothing/cloth/rugs (think recent bedbug outbreak here in the Northeast . . . Get it???)
- toddler beds
- TVs, large appliances
- paint, gas, paint thinner, oil (all hazardous to people)
- any small appliances that don't work.
- nothing broken or in need of repair .

If we all stick to the rules and act respectfully and responsibly our Swap Shop will be again a place we all look forward to visiting.

Thanks for listening,

—Eileen Lawlor

ॐ

Funding Available for Water-Flow Devices for Beaver-Related Flooding

The MSPCA has received another grant from the Nion Robert Thieriot Foundation to fund the installation of water-flow devices to humanely, non-lethally, and ecologically mitigate beaver-related flooding in the Berkshires. Please visit www.mspca.org/beaverfunding for the necessary forms and more information.

"Fabulous Fabric and Fiber" at New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery

"Fabulous Fabric and Fiber," an exhibit of works by ten quilt artists, a rug hook artist, and two first-class basket weavers will run from Friday, June 14, through Sunday, July 7. Works will be on display by Wendy Jensen, Joannn Kelly, Catsos, Susan Delmolino Ives, Pam Johnson, Bill Kane, and others. An opening reception will be held on June 14 from 5–7 pm.

The Meeting House Gallery is located at154 Hartsville-New Marlborough Road, New Marlborough (413- 229-2785, www.newmarlborough.org).

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 am.

Every Sunday through October: Softball game at Greene Park, 10:30 am.

Sunday, June 2: *Longing for a Local Lunch*, film featuring local students who advocate for a fresh and local school lunch, 1 pm, Mahaiwe Theater, Great Barrington. The film will be screened again on **Sunday, June 23**, 11 am, at the Triplex in Great Barrington. See p. 25.

Friday, June 7: Opening reception for *Edith L. Wilson: Monterey Artist* exhibit, 6–7:30 pm, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. Exhibit runs to July 6. See p. 13.

Saturday, June 8: Annual Catholic Pilgrimage, Our Lady of the Hills, Monterey, to Our Lady of the Valley, Sheffield. See p. 12.

Sunday, June 9: Monterey's Gabriella Makuc and three other talented young musicians in a benefit concert for Ferris Burtis Music Foundation, 4 pm, Sandisfield Arts Center, Sandisfield. $20, reservations strongly recommended (www.hburtis.com). See p. 21.

Thursday, June 13: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurses, Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 pm.

Friday, June 14:

Applications due for Knox Gallery summer community exhibit. Forms available at Monterey Library. See p. 13.

Opening Reception for *Fabulous Fabric and Fiber* exhibit of works by quilt artists, a rug hook artist, and basket weavers, New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery, 5–7 pm. Exhibit runs through Sunday, July 7. See p. 26.

Saturday, June 15: Bidwell House History Talk by Glendyne Wergland: "Shaker Equality of the Sexes, 1788–1890," Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham, 10 am. See p. 10.

Saturday, June 22: Otis Sup' & Swing Dinner & Concert with Wanda Houston and the Skeletones, 6 pm, Isaak Walton Field, Route 8 (just north of Farmington School), Otis. See p. 15.

Monday, June 24: Adult book group will discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Friday, June 28: Talk, with photos, by Barbara Swann on history of Brookmead, 7 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse basement. Free, sponsored by Monterey Cultural Council. See p. 11.

Saturday, June 29:

Tyringham Garden Tour: Walls, Water and Wonderful Gardens, 10 am–4 pm. Bidwell House grounds are a stop on the tour. See p. 10 for more information.

Evening of Jazz, 8 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse basement. Free. See p. 10.

Saturday July 6:

Magician Mike Bent, 10:30 am, Library.

Bidwell House Township No. 1 Day, 1:00–4:30 pm. See p. 10.

Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

The Observer
April 26 – May 25

High temp. (5/21)	84º
Low temp. (5/15)	29°
Avg. high temp.	67°
Avg. low temp.	40°
Avg. temp.	53.5°
Total rainfall	4.8 in.

Rainfall occurred on 11 days.

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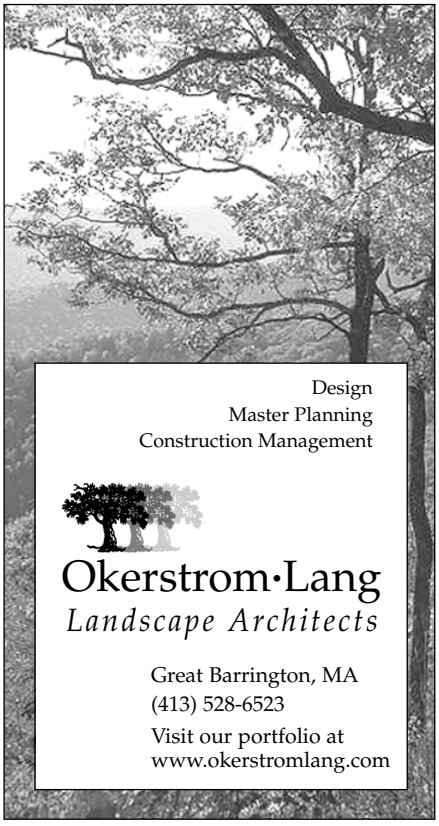
JUNE EVENTS

1st 2-4 PM..... Antique Appraisal Day *$5 per item*
8th 8 PM..... Bernice Lewis, Singer/Song Writer *$15*
9th 4 PM.. Concert to Benefit Ferris-Burtis Foundation *$20*
22nd 10 AM..... Van Gogh Talk with Carol Berry *$15*
7 PM..... Dedication of the new Vestibule and Lift
8 PM..... Release the Penguins! Jazz Quartet *$15*
29th 10 AM.. Sandisfield Meeting Houses w/Ron Bernard *$5*

IN THE GALLERY: Richard Migot, Photography



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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, 23, George Emmons, 18;
Bonner McAllester, 16

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